



**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations  
(Golden Jubilee 1975 – 2025)**

28 October 2025  
Alliance Francaise, Bengaluru, India

**R E P O R T**



Group Photo



## WELCOME ADDRESS

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations were held on 28 October 2025 at the Alliance Francaise, Bengaluru on a quiet, sunny afternoon. There was a palpable air of excitement and anticipation as nearly 70 members and some with their spouses of the AFUNPI proudly walked into the auditorium. It was the day to recollect and refresh memories associated with AFUNPI and cherish those moments.



Soon after, Girija Devi, AFUNPI member, donning as emcee of the celebrations took the mike and rolled the programme requesting for self-introduction of participating members. Mr. Prem Sharma Vice-President AFUNPI, Delhi welcomed all participants coming from different parts of India as well as overseas in his exuberant style.

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Prof. Michael Atchia, President Emeritus of the Association of Former International Civil Service (AFICS), Mauritius was the Chief Guest. He was president of the Mauritius Academy of Sciences and Technology, former Vice-president of FAFICS, former Chief and Programme Director of UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya and has had a varied career in Environmental Education and Curriculum development. In his Inaugural Address, he dwelt on the need, importance and promotion of peace in the present times of wars, violence, conflicts and polarization of society around the world. He emphasized the role of UN retirees in extending hands of friendship and support to local communities.



## TRACING THE AFUNPI JOURNEY AND MILESTONES

*"AFUNPI Since 1975...the journey"* a video commissioned by AFUNPI was screened giving a snapshot of the main achievements, challenges and future activities envisaged to assist



retirees in coping and meeting the new and emerging challenges posed by ageing and disruptive digital technologies.

Dr. M. Seenappa, President, AFUNPI traced the journey, the milestones achieved with personal stories and anecdotes. He remembered the yeomen contributions of the past office bearers and in brief spoke about the various activities of AFUNPI.

- He stressed the need for an association to flag and address issues of common interest related to pension, health insurance and life style. AFUNPI continued to provide guidance on issues related to death of a spouse so that the consequent pensionary benefits flowed to the beneficiaries. He emphasized the need to periodically conduct pre-retirement seminars to include more members into the fold of AFUNPI.
- The organizational and functional aspects of Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) was highlighted. Late Mr. S. Janakiram, President Emeritus of AFUNPI, was accorded the status of Vice-President Emeritus of FAFICS in recognition of his contribution in the formation and expansion of FAFICS and services to the cause of UN retirees.
- Dr. Seenappa conveyed the greetings of Mr. Jerry Barton, the President of FAFICS to AFUNPI members. He recalled the support and guidance received from Mr Andres Castellanos, President Emeritus of FAFICS, who personally visited India to participate in three AGM meetings held in Bangalore, Secunderabad and Goa. AFUNPI is greatly indebted to him.
- Dr. Seenappa thanked all the members who had generously contributed both in kind and resources to the cause of AFUNPI over the past fifty years. He thanked Mr. Prem Sharma, Mrs. Rita Bhatia, Mr. Ashok Mitra, Mrs. Nutan Prakash and many others for their untiring efforts in organizing and ensuring smooth functioning of the periodic meetings in Delhi and Ms. Rachel Sandhya Mohan and Ms. Sudha Murali in Hyderabad. He also appreciated Members of the AFUNPI Executive Committee for their support and contribution in organizing various activities.





### CONGRATULATIONS AND SPECIAL GREETINGS

Mr. N. Srinivasan, Vice-President, AFUNPI, shared greetings and congratulatory messages from Mr. Jerry Barton, President FAFICS, Austria and AFICS associations from countries across the world. They were from USA, Brazil, Canada, Netherlands, Peru and Cote d'Ivoire as well as from Chairman, UNFCU Board of Directors, New York, USA.



### ADDRESS BY GUESTS OF HONOUR

Mr. Masood Ahmed, President Emeritus, AFUNSOB Bangladesh and Mr. J. Sundaresan, Former Secretary, FAFICS, and member of AFICS, Geneva, Switzerland were the Guests of Honour.

Mr. Masood Ahmed, President Emeritus AFUNSOB Bangladesh was the former Vice-President of FAFICS, UNICEF programme officer, former president of UNICEF Global Staff Association and now President Rotary. He was accompanied by his wife Mrs Mahajabeen. Both congratulated and thanked AFUNPI India for its support to and cooperation with Bangladesh and shared their experiences of the initiatives undertaken in Bangladesh.



Mr. J. Sundaresan representing AFICS, Geneva recalled his close association with AFUNPI and its past presidents and said he was delighted to be present on this momentous occasion of 50 years of AFUNPI India and mentioned the many collaborations FAFICS has had with AFUNPI throughout the years.



The Guests of Honour were then presented with Mysuru *peta* and shawls in the Indian traditional style.

### HONOURING AFUNPI MEMBERS

In recognition of AFUNPI members achieving milestones in their professional carrier, their contribution to the society as well as their support and participation in strengthening AFUNPI, the following members were honored with a shawl.



- Late Dr Aloysius (Loui) Monteiro – Started his career as an economist at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Vienna, East African Development Bank in Kampala, Uganda, (1970 to 1973), Kenya, Malaysia, Sierra Leone. Worked with the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation in Namibia, Thailand and Western Samoa and retired in 1991. AFUNPI Secretary from 1994 to 1997, often hosted AFUNPI meetings at his home, initiated monthly meetings of AFUNPI at the Century Club and his spouse May Monteiro has always been very supportive to AFUNPI.
- Late Mr. S. A. Janakiram – Joined UNESCO Paris office in 1967 as Travel Officer and subsequently served as Chief of Staff Regulation and Rules. He also served as Principal Officer at UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya and as UNESCO Representative in Iraq. He was instrumental in opening UNESCO office in South Africa. AFUNPI President from 2002 to 2012, FAFICS Emeritus Vice President, raised awareness about AFUNPI at FAFICS meetings, able to convince the Pension Fund to adopt alternative to birth certificates as proof for date of birth, strengthened AFUNPI finances and initiated, organized and conducted Pre Retirement Seminars.
- Dr. V.R. Pantulu – The senior most member of AFUNPI, retired from ESCAP (1965-1990), celebrated his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday in October 2025. Promoted water resource development in the Lower Mekong Basin, covering Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Served on various international committees, such as the United Nations Secretary General’s special mission on post-war reconstruction and development in Viet Nam and UNDP’s multi-sectoral mission on Mahaveli River development in Sri Lanka. After retirement, provided his expertise on various projects to several international organizations including the World Bank Group, the South East Asia Ministers of Education Council, the Government of Papua New Guinea, the Snell Environmental Group (USA), the Government of Indonesia, and the Asian Development Bank.
- Dr. Prem Nath – Former Assistant Director General, FAO and founder of Dr Prem Nath Agricultural Science Foundation. The Foundation has published 33 books on food, agriculture and humanity as well as food and nutrition security, provides scholarships and awards to outstanding post-graduate students and young scientists. On 21 November 2025, the Foundation celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Bangalore. A staunch supporter of AFUNPI activities.
- Dr. R.B. Singh - Former senior FAO officer, former Chancellor of Central Agriculture University and former Director of Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Winner of



several national and international awards in the field of agriculture, including Padma Bhushan in 2003

- Dr. Ram C. Choudhary - Former FAO Advisor, Former International Rice Breeder at International Rice Research Institute, Philippines; Chief promoter of Kala Namak Rice in India, awarded Padma Shri in 2024 and an active AFUNPI member from Delhi
- Mr. Navin S. Khanna - Former Scientist at International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), developed diagnostic kits for viral infections such as HIV, Dengue, Hepatitis B and C, awarded Padma Shri in 2020, and an active AFUNPI member in Delhi.
- Dr Ansuya Kulkarni - Spouse of Late Narayan Kulkarni, AFUNPI member, one of the senior most spouse beneficiaries, collected over 300 musical instruments from different parts of the world, received Sangeet Natak Academy Amrit Award on 16 Sept 2023 by the Vice President of India. She loved playing a bamboo musical instrument - ANGKLUNG
- Mr Ganapathi Padmanabhan - Former UNIDO Officer, Former Director of Bharatiya Vidhya Bhavan, one of the senior most among AFUNPI members and most active participant at AFUNPI Bangalore meetings.
- Dr V.S. Narasimhan - Former IAEA Programme Officer, served as AFUNPI Secretary from 2004 to 2010 and President from 2012-2014, represented AFUNPI at FAFICS Council meetings held in Vienna, one of the senior most among AFUNPI members and when in India a regular participant at AFUNPI Bangalore meetings.

## **CULTURAL AND ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMMES**

After refreshments, the gathering settled down to a cultural programme of Indian classical and folk dance performances. The classical dance started with Pushpāñjali dance, an offering of flowers and devotion to the divine, the guru, the musical ensemble, the ashtadikpaalaks, the audience and the stage. It marks the auspicious beginning of the performance and is a gesture of respect and surrender. Kumari Purvi Manjesh presented *Ananda natamaadumvaa tillai* a devotional composition in praise of Lord Nataraja, the Lord of Dance who performs the cosmic dance, the divine rhythm that sustains the Universe as per Hindu religious philosophy. The next performance was by Kumari Bhanavi Shashi Kumar who presented *Mahishasura mardini*, wherein the Goddess Durga, the fierce form of Shakti, fights the buffalo demon Mahishasura for nine nights and finally slays him on the tenth day, symbolizing the victory of goodness over the evil demonic forces in the world.

Students of Shantiniketana School, Girinagar, Bengaluru then gave two vibrant folk dances. The first one in the Kodava style depicting the pastoral life, harmony and celebrations of the district of Coorg in Karnataka. The second one was dance depiction of Jasmine flowers being offered to Lord Madappa revered in the northern part of Karnataka.

Magdalene Chand, Honorary Secretary, AFUNPI, then proposed a vote of thanks.

In the evening all the guests and members celebrated the Golden Jubilee with cocktails and dinner.







